IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace any previous listing of the claims with the following replacement listing of the claims:

Replacement Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A source control system for a process control system, comprising:

a processor in a process control system;

an import function operable on said processor in response to a request by a user to import an object from an external source;

a validation function operable on said processor to determine whether said import object is eligible for automatic check-in, wherein said validation function comprises:

determining if said import object already exists as an existing object in said process control system;

if said import object already exists as said existing object, determining if said existing object has a status of checked-in;

if said existing object is checked in, determining if said user has permission to check-in; and

if said user has permission to check-in said existing object, then automatically locking said status of said existing object so as to validate said import object; and

a check-in function operable on said processor to be performed automatically upon import if said import object is validated by said validation function, including determining a version number for said import object.

2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said import object defines a control strategy.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 2, further comprising at least one controller capable of being loaded with said control strategy by said processor.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 3, further comprising at least one client in communication with said processor.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said control strategy is distributed from said processor to said at least one client.

6. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a database accessible by said processor to store said import object.

7. (Currently amended) A method operable on a processor for automatic check-in for a source control system in a process control system, comprising:

receiving an import request for an import object from an external source from a user;

executing a validation procedure on said processor to validate said import request for an import object, wherein said validation procedure comprises:

determining if said import object already exists as an existing object in said source control system;

if said import object already exists as said existing object, determining if said existing object has a status of checked-in;

determining if said user has permission to check-in; and

if said user has permission to check-in said existing object, then automatically locking said status of said existing object so as to validate said import request for said import object;

executing a check-in procedure operable on said processor to automatically check-in said import object if said import request for an import object is validated by said validation procedure; and

executing a status procedure on said processor to provide an import status.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

unlocking said status of said existing object, after said import object has been automatically checked-in.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said check-in procedure comprises:

determining if said import object already exists as an existing object in said source control system;

if said import object already exists as said existing object, determining if a status of said existing object is locked;

determining a new version number for a new version of said existing object;

checking-in said import object as said new version using said new version number; and

storing a comment in said source control system indicating an automatic check-in for said new version.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein determining said new version number for said new version comprises:

determining an existing version number of said existing object;

determining an import version number from said import object;

setting said new version number to a minor increment of said existing version number, if said import version number is equal to said existing version number;

setting said new version number to a major increment of said existing version number, if said import version number is less than said existing version number; and

setting said new version number to said import version number, if said import version number is greater than said existing version number.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said import object defines a control strategy.